

What is a brownfield?



Brownfields are abandoned or under-utilized properties with real or perceived contamination, which often blocks the cleanup and reuse of the properties.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff estimate there are 8,000-10,000 brownfield properties in the state, and approximately 1,500 of those properties are known to be tax delinquent.



The DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program offers options for environmental cleanups and provides services to support redevelopment of brownfields.

The RR Program's goal is to help restore the environmental and economic health of communities throughout Wisconsin. As a local government official, property owner, lender, developer or other party interested in brownfields, you may be tackling some difficult questions about cleanup and redevelopment. This brochure will help you find answers to those questions.

Brownfield Assistance

The RR Program offers the following brownfield services for public and private parties.

Financial Assistance

We offer a variety of funding programs, including:

- Site Assessment Grants;
- Land Recycling Loans;
- Environmental Remediation TIFs;
- Dry Cleaner Environmental Fund;
- Stewardship funds;
- Federal tax deductions for remediation; and
- Cancellation of delinquent taxes.



Liability Clarifications, Exemptions And Assurance Letters

The DNR offers a number of tools to public and private parties to limit their liability at brownfields, including:

- Local Government Liability Exemptions;
- Voluntary Party Liability Exemptions;
- Lender Liability Exemptions;
- Off-site Exemptions;
- Negotiated Agreements; and
- Assurance Letters, including:
 - close out letters;
 - no further action letters;
 - general liability clarification letters;
 - off-site contamination letters; and
 - lease letters.

Technical Assistance

The RR program provides technical and regulatory support to public and private parties to help them deal with contaminated properties. These services often require a fee.

Information Technology

The DNR also has new web technologies that allow interested parties to access our data for contaminated sites, including investigation and cleanup activities.

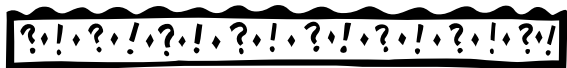
Community Outreach

Staff are available to make presentations to the general public and government boards and councils. We also provide a wide variety of publications on brownfield tools for cleanup and redevelopment.

Call the Information Line or visit the RR web site listed in this brochure to obtain these publications.



Brownfield Information



Who Can I Contact?

For information about how DNR can assist you with specific brownfield issues, please contact your regional RR office listed below. If you have general questions, please contact Andrew Savagian at 608-261-6422 or savaga@dnr.state.wi.us.

RR Regional Offices

Northeast Region - 920-492-5916 (Green Bay)
Northern Region - 715-635-2101 (Rhineland)
South Central Region - 608-275-3267 (Fitchburg)
Southeast Region - 414-263-8500 (Milwaukee)
West Central Region - 715-839-3700 (Eau Claire)

Where Can I Find More Information?

The RR Program also has the following outreach publications and tools to assist you with your brownfield projects:

RR Web Site

- www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr

RR Information Line

- 800-367-6076 (in-state long distance); or
- 608-264-6020 (Madison area or out-of-state long distance)

Re News

- The RR Program's quarterly newsletter;
- To subscribe, please send an email to Andrew Savagian, savaga@dnr.state.wi.us, or call 608-261-6422.

Listserv

- The RR Program's bi-monthly electronic newsletter;
- To sign up, email majordomo@badger.state.wi.us; in the body of the email message write "subscribe rr".

Hot Links



More information about brownfields and Wisconsin's programs to manage contaminated properties can be found at the following web sites.

WI DNR - RR Program

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

www.commerce.state.wi.us/CD/CD-bfi.html

Wisconsin Department of Revenue

www.dor.state.wi.us/html/erbase.html

Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5

www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/

Regional Online Brownfields Information Network

www.glc.org/robin/

Wisconsin Towns Association

www.wisctowns.com

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities

www.lwm-info.org

Wisconsin Counties Association

www.wicounties.org/



This document may contain information about certain state statutes and/or rules and does not include all of the details found in the statutes/rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes/rules to answer specific questions.

The WI DNR provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.



Brownfield Basics

Tools For Cleaning Up And Redeveloping Contaminated Properties

Cleanup Tools



Financial Programs

Technical Assistance

Community Outreach

Remediation & Redevelopment Program



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